

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SCS-03 SCCT-01 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05

OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ARA-06 /089 W

----- 047614

O R 141348Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3794

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINY MILI AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA SITREP

1. AS OF 0840 LOCAL (0740Z) WHAT APPEARS TO BE FNLA'S
LAST POSITION IN TOWN (AVENIDA BRAZIL HQ) WAS UNDER HEAVIEST
ATTACK YET SEEN IN THE CITY. MPLA APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN PRENDA.
CAZENGA, WHICH A FNLA MINISTER CLAIMED JULY 13 WAS HOLDING WAS
NOT PERSONALLY OBSERVED.

2. WIDESPREAD HEAVY FIGHTING STOPPED ABOUT DUSK JULY 13 AND THE
CITY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET UNTIL AVENIDA BRAZIL COMBAT BROKE OUT
ANEW APPROXIMATELY 0715 JULY 14.

3. DURING A JULY 13 CONVERSTATION WITH A CONGEN OFFICER, FNLA
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MATEUS NETO STATED THAT IN SPITE OF
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A GRAVE LACK OF AMMUNITION, FNLA WAS HOPEFUL THEY COULD HOLD

AV. BRAZIL AND CAZENGA. HE SAID, HOWEVER, IF FNLA HAS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CITY, IT WOULD BE TORCHED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE STRONGLY IMPLIED A THREAT TO FOREIGNERS, SAYING ONLY A LOSS OF FOREIGN LIVES WOULD FOCUS WESTERN ATTENTION ON FNLA'S PLIGHT. MATEUS NETO SAID NO MORE HELP WAS FORTHCOMING FROM MOBUTU AND FNLA'S ONLY HOPE WAS HELP FROM CHINA OR "THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES." HE SAID ROBERTO PREFERRED HELP FROM THE WEST BUT WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT IT FROM ANYONE WILLING TO GIVE.

4. MATEUS NETO SAID FNLA WOULD ATTACK IN THE NORTH BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IN LUANDA.

5. HE SAID FNLA HAD KILLED PAIGC AND FRELIMO SOLDIERS FIGHTING WITH MPLA AND HAD RECOVERED THEIR I.D.'S AND THAT FNLA HAD "IDENTIFIED" SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVISORS TO MPLA'S FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT COMMAND. MATEUS NETO SAID CAPTURED MPLA "SPIES" TOLD FNLA THAT THE FINAL LUANDA ATTACK WOULD BEGIN AT 1600 JULY 13 AND BE COMPLETE BY MIDNIGHT. THE ATTACK BEGAN ON SCHEDULE DURING THE CONVERSATION.

6. MATEUS NETO REPEATED WHAT WE ARE HEARING FROM OTHER SOURCES ABOUT THE GEN. MACEDO - GEN. CARDOSO SPLIT WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY. GEN. MACEDO REPORTEDLY CONFRONTED HIGH COMMISSIONER CARDOSO JULY 10 SAYING THAT A "POLITICAL SOLUTION" IS REQUIRED AND THAT ENTAILS TURNING POWER OVER TO MPLA WHICH WILL CONCURRENTLY DECLARE UDI ON JULY 15. CARDOSO IS SAID TO HAVE DECLINED. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY MET ABOUT 1600 JULY 13, APPARENTLY TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE. NO INFORMATION IS YET AVAILABLE AS TO THE OUTCOME. CARDOSO'S HAND IS STRENGTHENED BY THE FACT FNLA IS STILL HANGING ON, ALTHOUGH THAT THEY CAN CONINTUE TO DO SO IS DOUBTFUL.
KILLORAN

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